

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 5, 2009, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 5, 2009. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-18, 22, 23 and 31 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, and 14-18 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-18, 22, 23 and 31 are objected to because of the following informality:

There appears to be a "tense" issue with the limitation "identifying a plurality of data elements contained in the first set of data to which global annotations can be anchored, wherein each global annotation for a given data element, of the plurality, is stored by an annotation system independently from a representation of the given data element used each of a plurality of software applications to represent the given data element, and wherein the plurality of data elements to which global annotations can be anchored are identified from a registry maintained by the annotation system."

See Office Action, p. 2. In response, Applicants have corrected independent claims 1 and 12 to recite "the given data element used by each of a plurality of software applications." Accordingly, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, and 14-18 are allowable, but for the objections noted above. Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 12 and cancelled claims 22, 23, and 21 from further consideration in this application. Note however, Applicants do not concede that those claims are not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner, as the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating

expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner.
Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted, and
S-signed pursuant to 37 CFR 1.4,

/Gero G. McCLELLAN, Reg. #44227/

Gero G. McClellan
Registration No. 44,227
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)